



LOS ANGELES COUNTY DEPARTMENT OF MENTAL HEALTH
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September 11, 2014

TO: Each Supervisor

FROM: Marvin J. Southard, D.S.W.
Director

SUBJECT: **NOTICE OF INTENT TO REQUEST INCREASED DELEGATED
AUTHORITY PERCENTAGE FOR THE ASSISTED OUTPATIENT
TREATMENT – LOS ANGELES BOARD LETTER**

This is to advise your Board that the Department of Mental Health (DMH) is preparing a Board letter that requests authorization to fill positions for DMH and approval to amend 13 Legal Entity Agreements to expand assisted outpatient treatment "Laura's Law" services in Los Angeles County. DMH requests an additional ten percent for a total of twenty percent delegated authority upon execution of amendments to existing DMH Legal Entity Agreements with Didi Hirsch Psychiatric Services, Gateways Hospital and Mental Health Clinic, Hillview Mental Health Center, Inc., Kedren Community Mental Health Center, Prototypes, Pacific Clinics, San Fernando Valley Community Mental Health, Southern California Health and Rehabilitation Program, Special Services for Groups, Tarzana Treatment Center, Exodus Recovery, Inc., SHIELDS for Families, and Telecare to expand Full Service Partnership (FSP) and Institutions for Mental Disease (IMD) Step Down Programs capacity for Assisted Outpatient Treatment – Los Angeles clients.

In accordance with Board of Supervisors' Policy 5.120, prior Board notice is required for any department requesting delegated authority to increase Board-approved contracts over ten percent.

Justification

AB 1421 (Thomson, Chapter 1017, Statutes of 2002) established the AOT Demonstration Project Act of 2002, known as Laura's Law. Laura's Law purpose and intent is to identify certain adults with serious mental illness and treatment non-compliance who are at substantial risk for deterioration and/or detention under California Welfare and Institutions Code (WIC) 5150 which could be mitigated by mandated acceptance of appropriate services.

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As a result of the passage of AB 1421, the Board of Supervisors instructed DMH to establish and implement a pilot AOT program. The AOT pilot program was approved by your Board on January 16, 2003. The AOT pilot implemented specific elements of Laura's Law until funding for full-implementation could be established.

Planning for the expansion of the AOT program was initiated pursuant to a motion passed by the Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors in March 2013. DMH has developed model procedures and estimated the budget that would be necessary to support a full implementation of Laura's Law in Los Angeles County.

On July 15, 2014, your Board approved to adopt DMH's Mental Health Services Act (MHSA) Three-Year Program & Expenditure Plan. The MHSA Three-Year Plan includes recommended MHSA service expansions, as well as new MHSA Community Services and Supports Plan programs recommended by the System Leadership Team. Many of these program expansions are to be implemented over the course of the next fiscal year. In order for the Department to expand services quickly and increase access to the community, the implementation of this Plan will result in several Amendments to existing LE Agreements, which is already anticipated to result in the need to exceed the existing delegated authority.

Therefore, in most instances where speed and response time are of key importance, the objectives to maximize, prioritize, and increase access to services will more effectively meet the County's mission, "To Enrich Lives Through Effective And Caring Service."

Should there be a need to exceed the twenty percent delegated authority, DMH will return to your Board with a request for authority to amend the Agreement accordingly.

If you have questions or concerns, please contact me, or your staff may contact Richard Kushi, Chief, Contracts Development and Administration Division, at (213) 738-4684.

MJS:RS:ab

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